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International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

The General Assembly, by its resolution 72/165, proclaimed 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism to honour and support the victims and survivors of terrorism and to promote and protect the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The present report is submitted in response to the request, in resolution 72/165, that the Secretary-General report to the Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the resolution.

* The present report was submitted late owing to technical difficulties.

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I. Introduction

1. On 19 December 2017, by the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/165, Member States designated 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution at the seventy-third session of the Assembly and invited all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations and civil society entities, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe the International Day in an appropriate manner.

2. To support the first observance of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Permanent Missions of Afghanistan, Belgium, Iraq, Nigeria and the United States of America to the United Nations co-organized an event entitled "Surviving terrorism: victims' voices", giving victims a voice in sharing their experiences of being affected by terrorism. The Office of Counter-Terrorism also organized a series of activities throughout the month of August, including: the launch of a multimedia exhibition in New York, on 1 August, showcasing victims' voices; the coordination of the launch of other exhibitions around the world; and discussions and other events. The Office also mobilized United Nations information centres, civil society actors and social media platforms to raise awareness of the International Day.

II. Background

3. In 2006, the General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 60/288, containing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which noted that the dehumanization of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations contributes to conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and emphasized that effective counter-terrorism measures must ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism.

4. Since 2006, the threat of terrorism has spread to an increasing number of regions, with a shift towards attacks against softer targets. While today an increasing number of countries are affected by acts of terrorism, the number of victims has largely been concentrated in a small number of Member States. According to the 2017 Global Terrorism Index published by the Institute for Economics and Peace, Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan and the Syrian Arab Republic have accounted for three quarters of all deaths from acts of terrorism since 2013. Meeting the needs and protecting and promoting the rights of victims has become increasingly challenging as terrorists exploit conflict zones and ungoverned territories, seeking to exert control over regions that already suffer from a lack of stability and the absence of the rule of law.

5. The impact of terrorism is most starkly felt at the individual level: terrorist attacks cause death and injury through the use of improvised explosive devices, suicide attacks and, in the most rudimentary fashion, using vehicles, guns and bladed weapons. Many attacks occur in places with a heavy civilian presence, resulting in maximum casualties and instilling widespread fear. Such acts also have a ripple effect on the economic and social rights of the families of victims and survivors, leading to the further marginalization of vulnerable groups and separating communities.

6. Victims of terrorism continue to struggle to have their voices heard and their needs met. Their rights have seldomly been upheld, in particular in countries where terrorism has had an adverse effect on State institutions, where basic social services

and criminal justice institutions are weak or undermined and where national leaders and key actors are preoccupied in handling the terrorist threat rather than focusing on the victims.

7. The primary responsibility for supporting victims of terrorism and upholding their rights rests with Member States. The United Nations has an important role in supporting Member States in the implementation of pillars I and IV of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by standing in solidarity with, and providing support to, victims of terrorism and upholding human rights and the rule of law in all counter-terrorism efforts. United Nations entities carry out this mandate to assist Member States by: providing capacity-building and other forms of technical assistance; encouraging their efforts to promote, protect and respect the rights of victims; establishing associations and networks of victims of terrorism; and offering support through coordination with civil society organizations and other actors on the ground.

III. United Nations activities highlighting victims of terrorism

8. The entities of the United Nations system have focused their efforts on supporting Member States in the design and implementation of activities to uphold the rights of victims of terrorism and to address their needs. In recent years, the United Nations has worked to mobilize the resources and attention of the international community to respond to the needs of victims of terrorism.

9. Over the past five years, the Working Group on Supporting and Highlighting Victims of Terrorism of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force has developed and implemented several activities in support of victims of terrorism. For example, in 2016, the Working Group organized the United Nations Conference on Human Rights of Victims of Terrorism, and has subsequently developed guidelines, handbooks and other resources aimed at enhancing the capacity of civil society actors working with victims of terrorism.

10. Chaired by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Working Group ensures a coherent and coordinated approach to the work of United Nations entities on the rights of victims of terrorism. Over the past several years, the Working Group developed best practices and implemented capacity-building projects in support of victims of terrorism that contributed to setting the ground for the proclamation of the International Day in 2017. The Working Group has developed its programme of work and implemented activities based on recommendations from the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and independent experts. A summary of those activities includes the following:

(a) The Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights have advocated for victims' rights in their reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, respectively, with recommendations to ensure the respect for the human rights of victims of terrorism through national legislation, compensation and rehabilitation, among other measures;[1]

(b) The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) has been working to support and empower victims and survivors of violent extremism and terrorism for many years, including through its work on ending discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence and towards political empowerment and access to justice;

[1] See A/72/316, A/HRC/34/30, A/HRC/8/13, A/HRC/19/38 and A/HRC/22/26.

(c) The experts on the roster of Justice Rapid Response include specially trained investigators to help national authorities to prosecute sexual and gender-based crimes who have been deployed to every commission of inquiry created since 2009;

(d) In 2012, the former Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism detailed a framework of principles to guide the obligations of States to fulfil the human rights of victims of terrorism in his report to the Human Rights Council;[2]

(e) The Victims of Terrorism Support Portal (www.un.org/victimsofterrorism), launched in June 2014 with the support of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, is a platform connecting victims, their families and communities to one another, as well as to providers of resources, services and other forms of support — since its launch, over 350,000 users have visited the site: one of the Portal's key activities is its guest interview series, produced in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, with the support of the Counter-Terrorism Centre, which interviews key interlocutors and partners, ranging from victims, victims' associations, civil society organizations, independent experts and regional and international organizations — since 2016, over 20 interviews have been recorded in English, French, Arabic and Pashto and uploaded to the Portal;

(f) The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has focused on the key role that victims of terrorism play before, during and after criminal legal proceedings, as well as on their needs for assistance and support: the Office has provided specialized resources for policymakers, law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners seeking to develop and implement the law through specialized tools, including its publications entitled "The Criminal Justice Response to Support Victims of Acts of Terrorism" and "Good Practices in Supporting Victims of Terrorism within the Criminal Justice Framework";

(g) Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 2242 (2015) on women and peace and security, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict has advocated for the rights of victims of terrorism and has intensified its focus on the use of sexual violence as a tactic of terrorism: a number of missions have been undertaken by the Special Representative to meet with victims of sexual violence committed by terrorist groups to ensure their voices are reflected in the efforts to tackle those challenges, especially in relation to justice and accountability;

(h) Based on the framework of principles developed by the former Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism,[3] an international conference was held in February 2016, under the auspices of the Working Group, to examine how States could strengthen their national legislation, procedures and practices to better respect the human rights of victims of terrorism, including through the provision of services to meet their material and psychosocial needs;

(i) In the biennium 2015–2016, the Working Group organized and implemented training sessions for 14 victims and victims' representatives from across Africa and the Middle East to provide them with the appropriate tools and skills to more effectively forge alliances and advocate for their rights and needs, and to develop personal information sharing and support strategies; as a result, participants increased their use of social media, established Facebook pages and websites,

[2] A/HRC/20/14.
[3] Ibid.

produced theatre and storytelling plays and established pan-Arab and African networks of victims of terrorism;

(j) Between 2015 and 2017, the Office on Drugs and Crime provided technical assistance to strengthen national legal frameworks for the protection and support of victims of terrorism, at both the national and regional levels, in South Asia and South-East Asia: from 9 to 11 May 2017, the Office also provided training sessions on the effective prosecution of acts of sexual violence perpetrated by terrorist groups and on the provision of support to victims in Nigeria and the other Lake Chad basin countries;

(k) The Security Council, by its resolution 2395 (2017), renewed the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and expressed solidarity with the victims of terrorism and their families; the Council also encouraged the Directorate, in close cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, to take into account the important roles victims and their networks can play, in particular through the credibility of their voices, in countering terrorism; in its reports on assessment visits to Member States, the Directorate addressed relevant issues, including measures adopted to compensate victims, to provide support services and to offer protection in cases in which victims serve as witnesses; the Directorate also discussed with States the ways in which victims' voices could be included in programmes to counter terrorist narratives;

(l) In December 2017, the Working Group and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict convened a meeting with victims of terrorism on "Sexual violence as a tactic of terrorism: supporting the survivors", as part of the series on gender in the context of counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism: victims identified gaps in supporting projects of civil society organizations, and service provisions, including psychosocial support and reintegration of women and children, including children conceived in circumstances of sexual violence;

(m) More recently, the current Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism assessed national practices in counter-terrorism laws, policies and measures, including those to address the rights and needs of victims of terrorism and of persons impacted by counter-terrorism measures and made a number of recommendations.[4]

IV. Activities in support of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

11. The Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre coordinated a series of events leading up to the observance of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, including the key developments set out below.

A. Handbook of good practices

12. On 26 June 2018, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, with the support of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, organized an event entitled "Standing in solidarity for the rights of victims of terrorism" in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations and the Department of Public Information. The event included the launch of the "Handbook of Good Practices to Support Victims'

[4] A/72/495.

Associations in Africa and the Middle East" by the Office as well as an interactive round-table discussion with victims and representatives of victims' associations from France, Iraq, Mali and the United States. All participants noted the importance of such practical guides and how the Handbook would ensure consistency of approach and methodology for victims' associations in their support for victims of terrorism. The event, which was broadcast live through United Nations WebTV, is available on the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal. The Department of Public Information also promoted media coverage of the event through its social media accounts and multimedia services, including Facebook, Twitter and United Nations Television and Video, United Nations Web TV and the United Nations News Centre.

B. Victims of Terrorism documentary series

13. Recognizing the power of film as an educational and awareness-raising tool, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, with support from the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, launched its multilingual documentary series related to victims of terrorism. Produced in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, the documentary series raises awareness of the human impact of terrorism, stands in solidarity with the victims of terrorism and works to undermine the appeal of terrorism and violent extremism by providing a platform for victims to speak out against terrorism and the insidious narrative of violent extremists. The documentaries, which can be viewed on the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal, include:

(a) "Surviving terrorism: victims' voices from Norway", screened at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 9 November 2017, profiled two survivors of the 2011 terrorist attack in Norway by Anders Breivik, who killed 69 members of the Workers' Youth League on Utoya Island and 9 people in central Oslo: two survivors, Khamzy Gunaratnam and Viljar Hanssen, answered questions from the audience and participated in an interactive round-table discussion that also included victims from Italy, Lebanon, Uganda and the United States. The event was available as a live webcast on United Nations WebTV and is available on the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal;

(b) "Seeking justice in the face of terrorism in Mali" is the story of two amputees and a survivor of sexual violence in Mali during the time when the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (Mouvement pour l'unification et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest) occupied Gao in 2012 and 2013: the documentary, which details the victims' search for justice and their fight against impunity in the face of terrorism, was screened at Headquarters on 26 June 2018, during the "Standing in solidarity for the rights of victims of terrorism" event — a representative of a Malian human rights organization answered questions from the audience after the screening.

C. Victims of Terrorism Support Programme

14. In July 2018, the Working Group launched the Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, with the support of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. The Support Programme aims to strengthen victims' voices and their role in preventing violent extremism, when conducive to terrorism, to provide resources to victims and to increase the capacity of Member States and civil society organizations to assist them.

15. In addition, the Support Programme aims to rationalize many of the activities undertaken by the Working Group so far, while also seeking to integrate support for victims of terrorism into national and regional counter-terrorism strategies. The

International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, and its related activities described below, were coordinated through the Support Programme.

D. Exhibition

16. The Victims of Terrorism Support Programme produced the exhibition entitled "Surviving terrorism: victims' voices", which was on display in the Visitors' Lobby at Headquarters from 1 August to 4 September 2018. The exhibition featured the personal stories of 16 victims and representatives of victims' associations, as well as the two above-mentioned documentaries on the victims of terrorist attacks in Mali and Norway. The interviews, produced in Arabic, English, French and Pashto, provided viewers with an opportunity to understand the resilience and strength of victims and the importance of hearing their voices. The exhibition was made available for viewing on the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal and to the global network of United Nations information centres.

E. Conference to Commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism: Kabul

17. On 15 August 2018, at the Conference to Commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, held in Kabul, organized by the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office, Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov, highlighted the need to provide victims with long-term practical assistance, including financial, legal, medical and psychosocial support.

F. International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

18. The first International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism was commemorated on 17 August 2018 at United Nations Headquarters. The event was co-organized by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Permanent Missions of Afghanistan, Belgium, Iraq, Nigeria and the United States to the United Nations. The themes of solidarity and victims' rights celebrated the strength of victims and survivors who can tell their stories and put a human face on the impact of terrorism, emphasizing the importance of respect for their rights and needs, including their need to be heard. Victims of terrorism around the world were honoured with a minute of silence.

19. Following keynote speeches by the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations and the Secretary-General, the main part of the event consisted of presentations from four victims of terrorism and one representative from each of five victims' associations, from Afghanistan, Belgium, Iraq, Nigeria and the United States. The event was broadcast live on United Nations WebTV and promoted through social and traditional media outlets. In addition, the Department of Public Information created an official microsite for the International Day[3] in the six official languages of the United Nations which received 10,830 page views during the month of August 2018. The site also included video messages from a Nigerian survivor of a Boko Haram attack and the son of a victim of the attack on the United Nations Assistance

[3] See www.un.org/en/events/victimsofterrorismday.

Mission in Iraq in August 2003. The hashtag for the activities leading up and on the International Day activities was #SurvivingTerrorism.

20. On 20 August 2018, at a discussion on the theme "Surviving terrorism: victims' voices — sharing experiences of terrorism", Sayed Mushtaq Hussaini, a victim from Afghanistan, Hasan Wahhab Al Araji, a victim from Iraq, Imrana Alhaji Buba, a victim from Nigeria, and Liz Zirkle, a representative of a victims' association based in the United States, discussed the impact of terrorism and the experiences of the victims, and explored how the United Nations and Member States can support them, including by raising awareness of their issues through the observance of the International Day. Representatives from Member States, including Greece, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States, as well as from the European Union and several entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, were in attendance.

21. On 21 August 2018, in his message about the International Day, the Secretary-General reminded people to listen to the victims and survivors of terrorism, to help raise their voices and to recognize the effects that terrorism has had on their lives.

V. Activities by other United Nations offices and entities

22. United Nations offices and United Nations entities that are members of the Working Group on Supporting and Highlighting Victims of Terrorism of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force were encouraged to hold events and activities to observe the International Day.

A. United Nations Office at Geneva

23. On 16 August 2018, an event was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva to jointly observe World Humanitarian Day, celebrated on 19 August, the fifteenth anniversary of the attack on the United Nations Mission in Iraq, of 19 August 2003, and the International Day of Victims of Terrorism, observed on 21 August. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Michael Møller, addressed the event, following which he joined the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, in a wreath-laying ceremony. A minute of silence was observed, followed by statements from three family members of victims as well as a survivor of the attack in Baghdad in 2003 and from a family member of a victim of the attack against the United Nations Mission in Algiers in 2007.

B. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

24. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime held a number of events in Vienna and its field offices to observe the International Day, including:

(a) In Vienna, on 21 August 2018, the Terrorism Prevention Branch launched the screening of the two documentaries on the victims of terrorist attacks in Mali and Norway and held a minute of silence; the Branch also distributed its publications, "Good Practices in Supporting Victims of Terrorism within the Criminal Justice Framework" and "The Criminal Justice Response to Support Victims of Acts of Terrorism";

(b) On 21 August, an exhibition was displayed in the rotunda at the Vienna International Centre featuring interviews from the exhibition "Surviving terrorism: victims' voices;

(c) Also on 21 August, the programme office of the Office on Drugs and Crime in Indonesia, in collaboration with the Indonesian Agency for Combating Terrorism and the Witness and Victim Protection Agency, organized an event to observe the International Day, including the screening of the documentary from Norway and the participation of eight survivors of terrorist attacks in Indonesia, two of whom gave speeches about their experiences and the impact of the attack on their daily lives; participants also included officials from multiple government authorities, including the Ministry of National Development Planning, the Indonesian Agency for Combating Terrorism and the Witness and Victim Protection Agency, as well as representation from embassies and permanent missions in Jakarta, including Australia, Belarus, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, Peru, Thailand, Tunisia and the United States — the event was covered by national newspapers and in press releases and was also the subject of tweets by the embassies of the Netherlands and New Zealand, and was reported on in multiple accounts of the main Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna;

(d) The regional office of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Office on Drugs and Crime in Cairo produced a film featuring victims of terrorism from Iraq, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, who spoke about the impact of terrorism upon their daily lives -the film was distributed on social media on 21 August;

(e) On 21 August, the Office on Drugs and Crime distributed a message from the Executive Director of the Office, Yuri Fedotov, in which he emphasized that the International Day was an opportunity to hear the voices of victims and survivors of terrorism and to renew the commitment of the Office to providing the support they need.

C. United Nations Development Programme — Africa

25. The Africa office of the United Nations Development Programme shared online its project, "Preventing and responding to violent extremism in Africa: a development approach", which features the photographs and stories of survivors of extremism in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Somalia and Uganda.

D. United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

26. On 20 August 2018, in observance of Eid Al-Adha, the message of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Ján Kubiš, included reference to the International Day. The Special Representative noted that "although Eid is a time of joy, it is important to remember Iraq's many victims of terrorism." The Public Information Office of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) also produced a video message for the International Day from the Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs and Electoral Assistance of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, Alice Walpole, in which she marked the fifteenth anniversary of the attack on UNAMI headquarters and emphasized the struggles of victims of terrorism to have their voices heard and their rights upheld. The video was disseminated on 21 August on social media, the UNAMI website and by the Arabic News Section of the Department of Public Information. Video interviews with victims of terrorism were also posted on the local United Nations digital platforms.

E. United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

27. The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara held an event to observe the International Day that included a minute of silence on 21 August 2018. In a statement, the acting Head of Mission emphasized the need to give victims of terrorism opportunities to voice their concerns while highlighting the importance of upholding their human rights.

VI. Activities of the United Nations information centres

28. On 21 August, a total of 14 United Nations information centres undertook a broad range of outreach activities, including exhibits and multimedia outreach, based on products and support provided to them by the Working Group on Victims of Terrorism, including:

(a) The United Nations Information Centre in Cairo disseminated a press release, in Arabic and English, including the message of the Secretary-General; the Centre also highlighted the International Day on its website and social media accounts, reaching over 4,400 viewers;

(b) The United Nations Information Centre in Jakarta disseminated the message of the Secretary-General and supported the event held by the programme office of the Office on Drugs and Crime to observe the International Day;

(c) The United Nations Information Centre in Lima disseminated the message of the Secretary-General on its social media accounts;

(d) The United Nations Information Centre in Moscow published a series of materials honouring the victims of the attacks against UNAMI headquarters in Baghdad through its social media accounts, including Facebook, Twitter and VK, a Russian online social media and social networking service — the outreach by the Centre attracted over 2,000 followers;

(e) The United Nations Information Centre in Tehran translated the message of the Secretary-General into Persian, and the message was disseminated in a press release and posted on its website and on its social media accounts; on 26 August, the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Tehran delivered a speech and read the message of the Secretary-General at a conference in Gorgan, Golestan Province, attended by over 500 participants, including government authorities, families of victims of terrorism, youth, civil society and the media;

(f) The United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo translated the message of the Secretary-General into Japanese and posted it on its website and its Facebook account;

(g) The United Nations Information Centre in Warsaw translated the message of the Secretary-General into Polish and posted it on its website, Facebook and Twitter accounts; the Centre also posted five videos on victims of terrorism on its social media accounts;

(h) The United Nations Information Service in Vienna provided communications support to the event organized by the Office on Drugs and Crime to promote the International Day; the Information Service in Vienna also distributed the message of the Secretary-General and the message of the Executive Director of the Office on Drugs and Crime through its website, Twitter and Facebook accounts;

(i) The United Nations Information Service in Geneva promoted the International Day through its Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts, including a

video interview with a victim from the Canal Hotel attack in Baghdad; the United Nations WebTV Geneva witness series also featured a short film on a victim of terrorism, which was publicized on its Twitter and Facebook accounts.

VII. Activities of civil society

29. The Office of Counter-Terrorism coordinated, supported and collaborated on a number of activities with its network of civil society organizations that support victims of terrorism to observe the International Day, including: joint social media activities through the sharing of official tweets and posts, using the #SurvivingTerrorism hashtag, and by distributing the interviews and documentaries contained on the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal and the related exhibition. On 21 August, many members of the network changed their profile pictures to the International Day logo to show solidarity with victims of terrorism.

30. Many civil society organizations also arranged their own activities to observe the International Day, including:

(a) The French Association of Victims of Terrorism shared videos on their social media platforms from their project "Voices of survivors against radicalization", which features the testimonies of 21 victims and survivors of terrorism from across the globe;

(b) The V-Europe Association of Victims of Terrorism, based in Belgium, laid a wreath at the national monument for victims of terrorism in Brussels and gave interviews to the national media to share the message of the International Day;

(c) A victim of terrorism from Jordan was interviewed by an Al-Mamlaka news programme about the International Day;

(d) Victim Support Europe held a campaign from 17 to 21 August to raise awareness of the International Day by using a video poem "In the light and the dark", which was created by a victim of the terrorist attacks in Brussels in March 2016; the campaign used the following hashtags: #SurvivingTerrorism, #Inthelightandthedark, #counterterrorism, #fightterrorism, #antiterrorism, #stopterrorism, #WeAreNotAfraid and #VictimsOfTerrorism;

(e) Tuesday's Children, a civil society organization based in the United States to support victims of terrorism, created a social media campaign using quotes from victims of terrorism that was distributed on social media and shared links to the guest interviews and the live webcast of the launch of the exhibit on victims of terrorism held at United Nations Headquarters; the organization used the following hashtags: #survivingterrorism, #commonbond and #lifetimeofhealing.

VIII. Observations

31. The International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism on 21 August is a fitting way for the international community to express its solidarity with and to give recognition to the rights of victims of terrorism, as well as to promote action by Member States in support of victims. In order to benefit from reparations and redress, and to ensure that they receive the necessary medical services, mental health and psychosocial support and livelihood opportunities, victims' rights must first be recognized. This includes the rights of victims of sexual violence perpetrated by groups such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Boko Haram and others. The International Day provides an opportunity for the recalibration of the approach to the rights of victims of terrorism and creates conditions conducive

to upholding those rights and to developing an environment conducive to long-term solutions that support their needs.

32. The International Day allows the international community to sustain focus on, and create a vision for, coordinated action on victims of terrorism and to pave the way for future activities, events and opportunities for the promotion of their rights. Many speakers and participants at the various activities throughout the year leading up to the International Day stressed the need for stronger coordination, collaboration and leadership for victims, particularly in the international community and within the United Nations system. It may be useful to consider the creation of informal groupings or coalitions of action on the issue of victims of terrorism, drawing on examples of groups of like-minded countries (for example, groups of friends) that have coalesced around other thematic issues at the United Nations.

33. Building on the success of the 2016 Conference on the Human Rights of Victims of Terrorism, the Office of Counter-Terrorism will further explore ways of improving international coordination, collaboration and leadership in this area, including through convening a follow-up conference to facilitate the exchange of good practices, programmes and policies in support of victims among Member States and relevant stakeholders.

34. Member States and the entities of the United Nations system need to ensure that the human rights of victims of terrorism are respected, protected and promoted through ensuring socioeconomic inclusion, especially for vulnerable groups, strengthening community resilience and bringing about inclusive social cohesion. This will also depend on ensuring sustainable and long-term financial support for such efforts. There is a need to focus on establishing a long-term funding mechanism within the United Nations, in particular with a view to supporting the Victims of Terrorism Support Programme of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and other related initiatives, to ensure the provision of such resources. In addition to strengthening these objectives, such a mechanism could also provide for greater coordination and coherence of the efforts focused on supporting the needs and upholding the rights of victims of terrorism.